

hardest hit by job losses related to the September 11th attack. This emergency extension will be paid entirely by Federal dollars and should remain in place for 18 months.

And secondly, I believe the best way to help people meet health care needs or job training needs or income support is to fund the National Emergency Grant System by an additional \$3 billion. This will be Federal money that will go to States so they can distribute monies directly to people whose lives have been affected.

I urge the Congress, as they plan ways to deal with this tragedy, to look at the Government programs that already exist. We don't have time to try to invent new programs. What we ought to do is make those programs that exist work better, and here's two solutions to do so.

And finally, I want to remind Governors and folks in the States what Tommy told me earlier today. Tommy said there's \$11 billion available to help States provide health insurance for low-income workers and their families through the S-CHIP program. It's an important opportunity for States to expand coverage to people whose lives have been severely affected by the September 11th attack.

This is a way we can help. This is a set of principles for Congress to work together to help the American people, stimulate growth, and at the same time take care of the workers whose lives have been impacted by the September 11th attack.

And that's what we must do, because, you see, the terrorists hope to change our way of life. On the one hand, they hoped that America would become timid and cower in the face of their barbaric acts. They were wrong. On the other hand, they would hope that we'd become paralyzed and unable to act at home in order to do what's right for the American people. They were wrong again.

Instead they have provided interesting opportunities for America. I told some world leaders, through our tears we see opportunity; that we're sad and angry, but we've got a clear vision of the world; that this is a remarkable moment in history which our Nation will seize. We'll act boldly at home to encourage economic growth. We'll take care of people who hurt. We will comfort

those who lost lives. We'll be compassionate as to how we deal with Afghan citizens, for example, by making sure there's humanitarian aid.

And we'll be tough and resolute as we unite, to make sure freedom stands, to rout out evil, to say to our children and grandchildren, "We were bold enough to act, without tiring, so that you can live in a great land and in a peaceful world."

And there's no doubt in my mind—not one doubt in my mind—that we will fail; failure is not a part of our vocabulary. This great Nation will lead the world, and we will be successful.

Thank you for working for the Government. Thank you for caring about our fellow Americans. May God bless you all and your families, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Frances Perkins Department of Labor Building. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson; and Labor Department employees Eloise Clark and Paul Hyland, both of whom lost relatives in the September 11th attacks.

Statement on the Sibir Airlines Crash

October 4, 2001

I was deeply saddened to learn today of the crash of a Sibir Airlines passenger aircraft, flying from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk. My heartfelt sympathies and those of the American people are with the people of Israel and Russia and the families of the many victims of this tragedy.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Policy Team

October 5, 2001

Good afternoon. I just concluded a meeting with my economic policy team. Secretary O'Neill has been up on the Hill talking to Members of Congress and brought back some encouraging news. And that is, the United States Congress is interested in working as quickly as possible to pass an economic stimulus package.